

Message Text

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EUR/NE:APINKNEY

OSD/ISA/EUR:HBERGOLD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PLOS, EFIS, ENRG, MPOL, SENV, NO

SUBJECT:US VISIT OF STOLTENBERG GROUP ON PROTECTION OF
NORWEGIAN OFFSHORE RESOURCES

1. NORWEGIAN UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE STOLTENBERG AND
PARTY DISCUSSED OFFSHORE PROTECTION ISSUES IN CALLS ON
SECNAV MIDDENDORF, DASD BERGOLD AND DCNO VADM TALLEY ON
SEPT 26. SVALBARD QUESTION ALSO CAME UP. HIGHLIGHTS OF
DISCUSSIONS FOLLOW:

2. PROTECTION OF OFFSHORE RESOURCES -- STOLTENBERG SAID HIS
COMMITTEE HAD BEEN FORMED TO STUDY WAYS TO PROTECT NORWAY'S
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EXPANDING OFFSHORE OIL INVESTMENT, AND, DEPENDING ON OUT-

COME OF LOS CONFERENCE, TO POLICE AN EXPANDED FISHERIES JURISDICTION. SECNAV SAID HE HAD OBSERVED SIMILAR CONCERN ABOUT PROTECTING NORTH SEA RESOURCES IN UK AND NETHERLANDS, AND THAT SOME NATO ALLIES ARE INCREASING THEIR QUOTE BLUE WATER UNQUOTE ASW CAPABILITIES. HE HOPED NORWAY WOULD UNDERTAKE PARALLEL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ITS NAVAL CONTRIBUTION TO NATO ALLIANCE, WHICH WOULD COINCIDE WITH ITS OWN INTEREST. STOLTENBERG ASKED WHETHER U.S. BELIEVES THAT OIL INSTALLATIONS CAN BE EFFECTIVELY PROTECTED. HE WAS ADVISED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT BUT NEVERTHELESS POSSIBLE TO POLICE US

INSTALLATIONS, WHICH RANGE AS FAR AS 40 MILES OFFSHORE, AND TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST ANY TAMPERING BY SURFACE VESSELS. STOLTENBERG DREW TENTATIVE CONCLUSION THAT IT WOULD BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO PROTECT NORWEGIAN RIGS AS FAR AS 150 MILES FROM THE COAST, AND/OR TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST ANY SUBMARINE SABOTAGE.

3. SVALBARD -- QUESTIONED ON THE SUBJECT BY DASD BERGOLD, STOLTENBERG REPLIED THAT THE NEW SPITZBERGEN AIRFIELD WAS IN OPERATION AND THAT AIRPLANES HAD LANDED WITHOUT ANY INCIDENT. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON DELIMITING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WERE NOW EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN NOVEMBER. BERGOLD SAID WE ASSUME THAT NORWAY WILL ASSERT ITS RECOGNIZED RIGHTS IN SVALBARD IN THE FACE OF ANY SOVIET CHALLENGES. STOLTENBERG ASSURED HIM THAT NORWAY GIVES PRIORITY TO MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF VISITS FROM THE MAINLAND AND OTHER VISIBLE ACTIVITIES ON SVALBARD, ON ALMOST A DAILY BASIS, TO DEMONSTRATE NORWEGIAN SOVEREIGNTY.

4. STATUS OF STOLTENBERG REPORT -- ASKED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS COMMITTEE'S MISSION OF DEFINING COASTAL PROTECTION MEASURES AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE RECENTLY APPOINTED DEFENSE COMMISSION, STOLTENBERG SAID HIS COMMITTEE'S REPORT WOULD BE FINISHED FIRST, AT THE LATEST BY NEXT SUMMER, DUE TO THE IMMEDIACY OF THE PROBLEM. THE DEFENSE COMMISSION WOULD NOT COMPLETE ITS WORK BEFORE THE END OF 1975. ALTHOUGH THE DEFENSE COMMISSION IS INDEPENDENT, STOLTENBERG SAID IT WOULD NEED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESULTS OF HIS GOVERNMENTAL

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COMMITTEE'S EVENTUAL RECOMMENDATIONS, TO THE EXTENT THEY ARE ACCEPTED BY THE CABINET AND PUT INTO EFFECT. INGERSOLL

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